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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for at least a firewall comprising:

filtering a request in a first phase to verify only ~~at least one of:~~ that the request is pursuant to a supported protocol; that a command of the request is allowable; that a length of the request does not exceed an allowable maximum for the command of the request; that characters of the request are of an allowable type; and,

upon verification by filtering the request in the first phase, filtering the request in a second phase particular to the supported protocol to which the request is pursuant to verify at least one of: a source, a destination, and content of the request relative to the supported protocol to which the request is pursuant; ~~and,~~

upon verification by filtering the request in the second phase, passing the request;

otherwise, denying the request; and

otherwise, denying the request.

4-5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method for at least a firewall comprising:

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filtering a request in a first phase to verify only at least one of: that the request

is pursuant to a supported protocol; that a command of the request is allowable; that a length

of the request does not exceed an allowable maximum for the command of the request; that

characters of the request are of an allowable type;

upon verification by filtering the request in the first phase,

filtering the request in a second phase particular to the supported

protocol to which the request is pursuant to verify at least one of: a source, a destination, and

content of the request relative to the supported protocol to which the request is pursuant;

upon verification by filtering the request in the second phase, passing

the request;

otherwise, denying the request; and,

otherwise, denying the request.

7-13.   (Canceled).

14.   (Currently amended) A computerized system comprising:

a first phase filtering mechanism designed to verify only at least one of: that a

request is pursuant to a supported protocol; that a command of the request is allowable; that a

length of the request does not exceed an allowable maximum for the command of the request;

that characters of the request are of an allowable type; and,

at least one second phase filtering mechanism, each mechanism particular to a

different supported protocol and designed to verify at least one of: a source, a destination, and

content of the request relative to the supported protocol to which the mechanism is particular,

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wherein the first phase filtering mechanism upon verification is to pass the

request to a second phase filtering mechanism particular to the supported protocol to which

the request is pursuant.

15-18.   (Canceled).

19.   (Currently amended) A computerized system comprising:

first means for verifying ~~only at least one of:~~ that a request is pursuant to a

supported protocol; that a command of the request is allowable; that a length of the request

does not exceed an allowable maximum for the command of the request; that characters of

the request are of an allowable type; and,

at least one second means, each second means particular to a different

supported protocol and for verifying at least one of: a source, a destination, and content of the

request relative to the supported protocol to which the means is particular,

wherein the first means upon verification passes the request to a second means

particular to the supported protocol to which the request is pursuant; and,

otherwise, denying the request.

20.   (Canceled).

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